

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA)

Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Why are we here?

Refocus and Modify the
LCA Comprehensive
Ecosystem Restoration Study
to
LCA Near-Term
Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Scoping Meeting Agenda

Open House 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Scoping Overview Presentation
 6:00 – 6:45 pm
*History
*FY05 Guidance
*LCA Near-Term Plan Formulation
*NEPA—Scope of the PEIS
*Schedule moving forward
Public Scoping Comments
 6:45 – 10:00 pm

Public Scoping Meetings

April 19, 2004 — Houma Municipal Auditorium,
800 Verret Street, Houma, LA 70360

April 20, 2004 — Belle Chase Auditorium,
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chase, Louisiana 70037

April 21, 2004 — Morgan City Municipal
Auditorium,
728 Myrtle Street, Morgan City, Louisiana 70380

April 22, 2004 — Lake Charles Civic Center,
900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601

April 23, 2004 — USGS National Wetlands Research
Center, 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506

Historical Schedule

1989—State Act 6
1990—Breaux Act
1998—Coast2050 Report
Mar 2002—LCA Comprehensive
Study
Aug 2003—Draft LCA Plan & Public
Mtgs
Oct 2003—Administration Review
Feb 2004—Administration Budget
Guidance

FY 05 BUDGET

“In 2004, the Corps will work to issue a draft report that identifies the most critical ecological needs and proposes a near-term program of highly cost-effective projects to address them. The report will also highlight the key long-term scientific uncertainties and engineering challenges facing the effort to protect and restore the ecosystem, and propose demonstration projects and studies to help answer these questions. The report will focus on the specific coastal areas that require the most immediate attention and on the best way to sequence the proposed work over the next 10 or so years, as we learn what works best.”

“In 2004, the Corps will begin developing studies of potentially promising, long-term ecosystem restoration concepts, with the objective of determining whether they would provide a cost-effective way to create coastal wetlands.”

“An existing Federal-State Task Force established under 1990 legislation will increase its efforts to build and evaluate highly cost-effective fresh-water and sediment diversion projects.”

Purpose

Identify a plan of action that reverses the current trend of degradation in the coastal ecosystem

- *Targeted ecological restoration of healthy, productive, and diverse wetlands within critical, high-priority areas
- *Enhanced sustainability with essential form and function of the natural ecosystem
- *An integrated restoration program that results in multiple use benefits; benefits not solely for wetlands, but for communities, industries, and resources of the coast

Study Objectives

Ecosystem Objectives

- *Sustain productive and diverse fish and wildlife habitats
- *Reduce nutrient delivery to the Continental Shelf

Hydrogeomorphic Objectives

- *Establish dynamic salinity gradients
- *Increase sediment input
- *Maintain or establish natural landscape features and hydrologic processes

Schedule

June-July – WRDA Bill Requires LCA Report by Dec 2004
(Contingent Authorization)

2 July – Submit draft report / Draft PEIS to EPA

9 July to 7 September – 45-day Public Review and Comment period

8 September to 17 October – Respond to comments on draft report; prepare final report / Final PEIS

24 December – Signed Chief of Engineers Report